UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, arriving in Yerevan, meets with President of Armenia; discussion focuses on situation in Nagorny Karabakh.

+ Security Council resolutions and statements represent legal and political basis for solution of Abkhazia problem, Secretary-General says.

+ Special Representative for Mozambique says recent elections were peaceful, well-organized and free of major irregularities; ONUMOZ to remain vigilant pending completion of vote count.

+ Special Representative for Rwanda says security situation in refugee camps in Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania is deteriorating; notes increasing politicization and intimidation of refugees.

+ Tajik parties, meeting in Islamabad, agree to extend cease-fire for three months and to continue implementing confidence-building measures.

+ Deputy Special Representative for Cyprus holds informal talks with Cypriot leaders on implementation of confidence-building measures and overall settlement, Secretary-General reports.

+ Bosnian government army continues offensive in north-west Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Croat forces also engage Bosnian Serbs.

+ United Nations and CSCE to improve cooperation and coordination at all levels to make best use of resources, Secretary-General says.

+ Human Rights Committee begins adopting parts of draft general comment on reservations made by States regarding International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

+ Bengt Lindqvist appointed Special Rapporteur on implementation of Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left Georgia for an official visit to Armenia, where he met with President Levon Ter-Petrossian. They discussed forthcoming United Nations conferences, including the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the special General Assembly meeting to be held next October; the crisis in Nagorny Karabakh; and Armenian development issues.

Following his meeting with the Armenian President, the Secretary-General said he had no mission to be a mediator in relation to Nagorny Karabakh, as the Security Council had asked the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to play such a role. However, he would need as much information as possible so that his next report might explain the situation and how it could be resolved. He believed there was an agreement in Baku and Yerevan that the problem would require a step-by-step approach, and that it was very important to maintain the existing cease-fire and to avoid any military confrontation between the parties.

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During his official visit to Georgia, which ended this morning, the Secretary-General had meetings with President Eduard Shevardnadze, government officials and Members of Parliament, and representatives of persons displaced due to the situation in Abkhazia. He reaffirmed that the Security Council resolutions and presidential statements on Abkhazia represented a legal and political basis for the solution of the problem there.

The Secretary-General stressed that the problem should be solved on the basis of United Nations principles: preserving the political independence and territorial integrity of States; guaranteeing the inviolability of international frontiers; the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force; and implementing Council resolutions. Meanwhile, ways to speed up the repatriation of displaced persons should be considered.

He noted that Georgian/Abkhaz talks would resume in Geneva on 14 November under the aegis of Special Representative Edouard Brunner. Taking into account the results of those talks, he intended to invite President Shevardnadze, the Abkhaz leader Mr. Ardzinba, and a high-level Russian representative to a meeting in early December.

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Mozambique's first multiparty elections were conducted peacefully, in a well-organized manner, and without any major irregularities or incidents, according to a preliminary statement by Special Representative Aldo Ajello. He stressed that United Nations observation did not support any claim of fraud or intimidation, or any other patterns of incidents that could affect the credibility of the elections.

The turnout for the three-day elections was massive, and more than 90 per cent of the registered electorate voted in some provinces, Mr. Ajello noted. There was some confusion after the Mozambique National Resistance Movement

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(RENAMO) decided to withdraw from the elections on Thursday, but voting proceeded smoothly after that decision was reversed. He said that the counting of ballots was under way, and that the United Nations Observer Mission in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) would maintain its vigilance. Once the count was completed, he would be in a position to make an official pronouncement on the freedom and fairness of the entire electoral process.

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Special Representative Shahryar Khan has found that the security situation is deteriorating in Rwandese refugee camps in Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania, according to a United Nations spokesman. He visited some camps yesterday, and reported increasing politicization and intimidation of refugees.

Mr. Khan will discuss the matter with the Secretary-General in Geneva early next week, the spokesman said. He will emphasize the need for emergency assistance for Rwanda, as opposed to humanitarian assistance, to support the functioning of the Government, the rebuilding of infrastructure and the re-establishment of communications.

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The Tajik parties have agreed to extend their cease-fire agreement for another three months until 6 February 1995, according to a note issued today at Headquarters. They took that action by signing a joint communiqué at the conclusion of the inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad yesterday. The parties also agreed to sign the protocol on the joint commission to monitor implementation of the agreement; to continue implementing confidence-building measures, including the release of detainees and prisoners of war; and to focus attention on the need to provide additional security guarantees to the civilian population of the Karategin Valley.

The parties confirmed that they would each simultaneously release 27 detainees and prisoners of war before Sunday, through the good offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They also confirmed their commitment to settle the conflict personally, and agreed to hold the next round of talks in Moscow in early December.

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The leaders of the two Cypriot communities last month began a series of informal consultations with the Deputy Special Representative for Cyprus, Gustave Feissel, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 29 October, he said they were exploring concrete ways in which progress might be made regarding the implementation of the package of confidence-building measures and the overall settlement of the Cyprus problem.

In view of the fact that the consultations had begun and that his review of the situation was continuing, the Secretary-General said it was not appropriate at the present time to attempt a definitive report on his mission

of good offices in Cyprus. The Security Council's request for a fundamental and far-reaching reflection required discussion and analysis of a number of developments in recent months. He added that his representatives would continue their consultations with the parties and with others, and that he would keep the Council informed as necessary.

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The Bosnian Government's Fifth Army Corps has been continuing its offensive against the Bosnian Serbs in north-west Bosnia and Herzegovina, and pushing the confrontation line southward from the Bihac pocket, a United Nations spokesman said today. Bosnian Croat forces have reportedly been assisting the government offensive.

Fighting was also reported between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb forces on the southern side of the Mount Igman demilitarized zone near Sarajevo, the spokesman added. Meanwhile, the Government has been cooperating with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in moving troops out of the zone, and only a small number now remain there.

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Specific efforts have been made by the United Nations and the CSCE to improve contacts and cooperation in the field, at the negotiating table and between the respective headquarters, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the General Assembly dated 17 October, he said those links would be enhanced in order to make the best possible use of resources made available by Governments to the two organizations. The avoidance of duplication or overlapping mandates would facilitate cooperation and lead to effective coordination.

There was an informal understanding regarding the division of labour between the two organizations, the Secretary-General noted. The United Nations had retained the lead in peacemaking efforts in Tajikistan and Abkhazia, Georgia, while the CSCE had the lead in Nagorny Karabakh, Moldova and South Ossetia, Georgia. There was also close cooperation between UNPROFOR and the CSCE mission resident in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Secretary-General went on to say that he had accepted an invitation to attend and address the Meeting of Heads of States of Government of States participating in the CSCE in Budapest on 5 and 6 December.

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The Human Rights Committee yesterday began to adopt parts of a draft general comment aimed at providing guidance on issues relating to reservations made by States on ratification or accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or its Optional Protocols.

The general comment is necessary, according to the draft, because it is important for States parties to know exactly what obligations they have

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undertaken. In monitoring implementation of the Covenant and the Protocols, the Committee also has to know whether a State is bound, and to what extent, to a particular obligation. The Committee is concerned that the number, content and scope of reservations might undermine the Covenant's full implementation. The draft defines reservations and their role, and examines the international law on reservations as it applies to the Covenant. It also considers what specific rights may be the object of reservations.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Bengt Lindqvist, a Member of the Swedish Parliament, as Special Rapporteur on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Lindqvist was Sweden's first blind cabinet Minister, having served as Minister of Social Affairs from 1985 to 1991.

The Standard Rules, which were adopted by the General Assembly last year, outline government responsibilities and provide guidance for action regarding the rights of people with disabilities. Although they are not compulsory, the Rules exert strong moral and political influence and can become international custom when applied by a sufficient number of States.

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UNITED NATIONS

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3 November 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, continuing official visit to Armenia, meets with Prime Minister and Chairman of Supreme Council; discusses United Nations assistance for economic reform.

+ United Nations is only forum in which peoples and States can address global problems of fragmentation, anarchy and breakdown of social values, Secretary-General tells Armenian Supreme Council.

+ General Assembly begins consideration of situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; debates draft resolution by which it would encourage Security Council to lift arms embargo against Bosnian Government.

+ Sixty-eight countries announce contributions totaling $1.15 billion at 1994 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

+ General Assembly President, welcoming initialling of Lusaka peace agreement, calls on Angolan Government and UNITA to establish immediate cease-fire.

+ Bosnian Government forces make significant gains on three fronts with coordinated offensives against Bosnian Serbs; intense fighting reported in central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations approves annual report to General Assembly; Observer for Palestine to be invited to participate in Assembly's special session next October.

+ Economic and Financial Committee concludes consideration of Economic and Social Council report; Secretary-General of Habitat II, noting global urbanization, says key to human security will be found in cities.

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For information media—not an official record

Continuing his official visit to Armenia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today addressed the country's Supreme Council. He also met with the Chairman of the Council, Babken Ararktsian, and discussed the forthcoming observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Noting that there would be parliamentary elections in Armenia next year, the Chairman expressed interest in the different forms of electoral assistance provided by the United Nations. The Secretary-General said the Organization was at the disposal of its Member States in such matters.

The Secretary-General had a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister Hrant Bagratian. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude for United Nations assistance with regard to economic reform, particularly for projects developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Secretary-General reaffirmed the Organization's willingness to reinforce cooperation with Armenia. They also discussed the settlement of conflict within Caucasia, particularly the situation in Nagorny-Karabakh.

Also today, the Secretary-General was awarded an honorary doctorate by Yerevan State University. He visited the town of Echmiadzin, and called on Archbishop Pozapalian I, the temporary head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Tomorrow, he will pay an official visit to Moldova, and will depart for Geneva at the end of the day.

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In his address to the Supreme Council of Armenia, the Secretary-General said the country must achieve self-reliant, sustainable development, having recovered its political independence. The transition to a market economy was long and hard, but Armenia's progress in economic reforms, particularly in the privatization of land and enterprises, was a model for the region. The United Nations would continue to support Armenia in such a difficult period.

The Organization was also at a turning point in its history, he continued. In the wake of the cold war, it was being asked to keep peace where there was no peace to keep, to intervene where there was no government, and to maintain troops where not all parties approved of their presence. It also had to supply humanitarian aid, care for refugees, and help rebuild infrastructures. For the United Nations to be successful, Member States must be ready to pay their financial dues in full, to send troops and equipment, and to stay the course of peace-keeping missions which might last for years.

The United Nations was also dedicated to tackling the problems of development, which lay at the root of political problems, he said. It was working for a more prosperous world, where human rights were respected, where democratic rule was the norm and where poverty, unemployment and social exclusion were banished from societies. In a world faced with fragmentation and divisions, the United Nations was the only possible forum for peoples and States. In a world faced with anarchy, it offered the possibility of international order. In a world faced with the breakdown of social values, it offered support for sustainable development, he concluded.

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The General Assembly met today to begin consideration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Assembly had before it a draft resolution by which it would urge the Security Council, in fulfilling its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, to take all appropriate steps to uphold and restore fully the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By the draft, the Assembly would encourage the Security Council to give all due consideration and exempt the Governments of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo originally imposed by resolution 713 (1991). In line with the offer made by the Bosnian Government, the Assembly would encourage the Council to consider a de jure lifting of the embargo, with effective application deferred for up to six months or more.

Introducing the resolution, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina said that if his Government had to choose between a continued role for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and a lifting of the arms embargo, it would end the embargo.

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Sixty-eight countries announced contributions of almost $1.15 billion at the 1994 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which ended yesterday. A total of $980 million was pledged for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including estimates, and more than $30 million for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), excluding estimates. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) received pledges worth $118 million.

The Administrator of the UNDP, James Gustave Speth, said the funds pledged supported programmes to help developing countries make sustainable progress in improving the lives of their citizens. Unfortunately, that progress had been jeopardized by a decline in contributions in recent years. UNICEF's Executive Director, James P. Grant, said the pledges made by small countries and non-traditional donors reflected an understanding that many small contributions could have a considerable impact when taken together. The Executive Director of the UNFPA, Nafis Sadik, said the Conference was an important part of efforts to mobilize resources for population activities. The challenge now was to translate agreements reached at the International Conference on Population and Development into action.

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General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) has called on the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to establish an immediate cease-fire. Welcoming the initialling of a peace agreement in Lusaka, he urged the parties to do everything possible to bring about a formal signing without delay.

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The President congratulated the Angolan Government and UNITA for their courage and sense of responsibility, and called on them to cultivate reconciliation and tolerance in order to facilitate a lasting peace. That would enable Angola to concentrate its efforts and resources on reconstruction and development and on promoting the well-being of the Angolan people. He also expressed gratitude to Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye and the observers of Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States for their decisive contribution to the Angolan peace process.

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Bosnian Government forces have made militarily significant gains with coordinated offensives on three fronts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a United Nations spokesman said today. The offensives were underway south of the Bihac pocket, in central Bosnia, and near Mount Igman.

The most intense fighting was taking place around the town of Kupres in central Bosnia, the spokesman said. Bosnian Croat forces appeared to be actively engaging the Bosnian Serbs there, and over 3,000 detonations were reported in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) noted two violations of Security Council-designated exclusions zones by Bosnian Serb forces. A 76mm gun was fired in violation of the zone around Gorazde, while three mortar rounds were fired in Sarajevo.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations yesterday approved its annual report to the General Assembly. In taking that action, the Committee decided to invite the Observer for Palestine, in addition to all Member and observer States, to participate in the Assembly's special session next October.

According to the report, 79 States have set up national committees to coordinate activities for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, while 29 intend to do so. The Committee will hold its next meeting on 17 November, and its last meeting for the year on 1 December.

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The key to real global security -- human security -- will be found in future in cities, according to the Secretary-General of the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Wally N'Dow. He said that growing social tensions, which were rooted in poverty and the maldistribution of resources, would have to be resolved in cities. He made those comments to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) yesterday, as it concluded its consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

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By the end of the century, more than half of the world's people would be city dwellers, with most urban population growth coming in developing countries, he continued. By the year 2020, 85 per cent of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean region would live in cities, as would 54 per cent in Africa and 56 per cent in Asia.

Also yesterday, Algeria, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, introduced a draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and International Development Strategy. That draft would request the Secretary-General to ensure that his agenda for development provided an impetus to that process.

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOSOM II mandate for final period until 31 March 1995; says military forces will be withdrawn from Somalia in secure and orderly manner as soon as possible; urges Somali factions to negotiate cease-fire and formation of transitional government.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, sets out procedures to enhance arrangements for consultation and exchanges of information with troop-contributing countries.

+ General Assembly encourages Security Council to consider lifting arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina; resolution adopted by 97 votes in favour to none against, with 61 abstentions.

+ Secretary-General arrives in Geneva after official visit to Moldova; to hold meetings next week on differences between Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, and security in Rwandese refugee camps.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia meet with Foreign Ministers of Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Zagreb.

+ Disarmament and International Security Committee discusses draft resolution calling for moratorium on export of anti-personnel land-mines.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for a final period until 31 March 1995. It said every effort should be made to withdraw all UNOSOM II military forces and assets from Somalia in a secure and orderly manner as soon as possible before that date, and without comprimising the safety of the Operation's personnel. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 954 (1994).

The Council affirmed that the primary purpose of UNOSOM II until its termination was to facilitate political reconciliation in Somalia. It urged

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all Somali factions to negotiate as soon as possible an effective cease-fire and the formation of a transitional government of national unity. The Council emphasized the responsibility of the Somali parties for the safety of UNOSOM II and other personnel engaged in humanitarian activities, and strongly demanded that they refrain from any acts of intimidation or violence against those personnel. It asked Member States to provide assistance in the withdrawal process.

The resolution invited the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue their efforts in cooperation with the United Nations in the search for peace in Somalia. It called on Member States, particularly neighbouring ones, to continue to support Somali peace and reconciliation efforts. It also reiterated the need for strict compliance with the embargo on arms deliveries to Somalia.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to keep it informed about developments in Somalia, and to report before 31 March 1995 on the situation there, with suggestions on the role the United Nations could play in the country beyond that date.

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The Security Council today said that there was a need for further enhancement, in a pragmatic and flexible manner, of arrangements for consultation and exchanges of information with troop-contributing countries. In a statement by i s President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council laid out certain procedures to be followed in that regard in future.

Meetings should be held as a matter of course between Council members, troop contributors and the Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of information and views in good time before the Council decided to extend, terminate or change the mandate of a peace-keeping operation, the President said. Such meetings would be chaired jointly by the Council Presidency and a representative of the Secretariat nominated by the Secretary-General.

The monthly tentative forecast of Council work would in future indicate the expected schedule of meetings. Ad hoc meetings chaired jointly by the Council Presidency and a representative of the Secretariat might be convened in the event of unforeseen developments in a particular operation which could require action by the Council. An informal paper, including topics to be covered, would be circulated to participants well in advance of meetings. In the course of informal Council consultations, the President would summarize the views expressed by participants at each meeting with troop contributors.

Consultations might take a variety of forms, including informal communication between the Council President or its members and troop contributors and, as appropriate, with other countries especially affected. The Council would keep under review arrangements for the exchange of

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information and views with troop contributors, and arrangements to improve the quality and speed of the information available to support Council decision-making.

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The General Assembly yesterday encouraged the Security Council to give all due consideration and exempt the Governments of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo originally imposed by resolution 713 (1991). Implementation of that exemption would take place in six months if the Bosnian Serbs had not accepted the peace plan proposed by the Contact Group (France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States). In a resolution adopted by 97 votes in favour to none against, with 61 abstentions, the Assembly demanded that the Bosnian Serbs immediately and unconditionally accept the territorial settlement contained in the proposed plan.

The Assembly urged the Security Council, in fulfilling its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, to take all appropriate steps to uphold and restore fully the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It urged Member States to cooperate with the Republic in exercise of its inherent right to self-defence, and demanded that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) uphold its commitment to end any military and logistical support to the Bosnian Serbs.

The United States said that lifting the embargo meant risks, but that inaction meant greater risks and denied the Bosnian Government its right of self-defence. While there were grounds for the fear that the Bosnian Serbs would retaliate against United Nations personnel should the embargo be lifted, the Serbs could not be allowed to blackmail the Organization into denying the Bosnian Government its rights. The Russian Federation abstained from voting, saying that the resolution was one-sided and incomplete and did not adequately reflect the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded his visit to Armenia and then paid an official visit to Moldova. He met with the President of the Republic, and discussed United Nations economic and disaster assistance to Moldova and other issues. He also addressed the Moldovan Parliament, and visited a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office.

The Secretary-General later departed for Geneva, where he is scheduled to have several meetings next week. The need for progress towards resolving the differences between The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece will be the subject of a meeting on Monday. On Tuesday, he will chair a meeting focusing on the security situation in Rwandese refugee camps. Special Representative Shahryar Khan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, will be among the participants in Tuesday's meeting.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, met today in Zagreb with the Foreign Minister of Croatia, Mate Granic, and the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Vladislav Jovanovic.

The Co-Chairmen later described that meeting as potentially one of the most important to have taken place in the former Yugoslavia since the outbreak of fighting in 1991. It was now up to the Governments of Croatia and the Federal Republic to make the most of the opportunity for reconciliation and economic cooperation, they said.

In a separate development, Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croat forces today took the town of Kupres in central Bosnia and Herzegovina after coordinated offensives against the Bosnian Serbs, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb forces fired missiles into Bihac, resulting in a strong protest by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

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The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) yesterday began its consideration of a series of draft resolutions dealing with such issues as a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land mines, transparency in armaments, and development of the Register of Conventional Arms. Other drafts to be considered deal with possible topics for discussion in the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, the establishment of various nuclear-weapon-free zones, and confidence-building measures.

Introducing the draft resolution calling for a moratorium on the export of land-mines, the United States said land-mines were an economic development issue, a human rights issue and an environmental issue. Sponsored by 61 States, the draft welcomes programmes for demining and humanitarian aid to victims of anti-personnel mines. It encourages international efforts to solve the problems caused by such mines, with a view to their eventual elimination.

The representative of Cambodia said that at least eight million land-mines were scattered over the most arable parts of his country. One out of every 236 Cambodians was an amputee as a result. The best solution to the global problem was a complete ban on the production, use and transfer of such weapons, followed by their complete elimination.

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